



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/6p9z0rHNXZROntx6WOIKpcgqgqAMd9R>

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

### Minutes

**Attendance:** Steve Moore, Eliza Burden, Keith Schnebly, Mary Ellen Aronow, Tim Lecuivre, Jo Ann Preston, Beth Melofchik, Lynette Culverhouse, Ellen Cohen, Erin Bumgarner, Sarah McKinnon, Cricket Beauregard Lewis, Silvia Dominguez

1. *Approve June (edited), and July Meeting Minutes*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
  - Construction and trees news –
    - i. Whittemore Park: Tim is working with contractors to improve tree protection
    - ii. Construction guidelines are now posted on the Town of Arlington Trees page; also available on the ATC website under “Tree Care”
    - iii. Tim working closely with Mike Ciampa (interim head of Inspectional Services). To ensure trees are taken into consideration during bldg permit process, Ciampa has added the Tree Warden to the ‘sign off’ check list prior to acquiring building permit (!)
  - Tree Bylaw activity
    - i. Some Tree Plans are out of compliance; others are complying. Much more bylaw activity in July due to more increased awareness of bylaw and more resident eyes on developments.
      1. 7 Mystic View Terrece (private road): no trees removed, 4 trees protected
      2. 23/27 Tanager Street: 3 trees protected, 2 trees removed (15” maple, 9” dogwood). Fees have been paid
      3. 370 Ridge St: 0 trees removed, 2 trees protected
      4. 29 Wachusett:
      5. 61 Woodside Ln: 2 removed (12” Oak, 16” Oak), 5 protections
      6. 33 Kilsworth: 0 removed, 3 protected
      7. 33 Ridge St : 0 removed, 6 protected, but late on Tree Plan
      8. 41 Yerxa: 0 removed, 1 protected
      9. 138 Herbert Street: 1 street tree
      10. 372 Appleton Street: 4 protected trees, yet submitted Tree Plan late
      11. 42 Melvin Rd: 0 removed, 4 protected; 1 unhealthy oak removed (per an arborist)
      12. 12 Foxmeadow Ln: trees removed in the spring without any warning. Upset neighbors reached out to Tree warden. ‘Proposed demolition’ = Article 16 language, town counsel/Mike Ciampa reviewed the Article 16 and deemed that this project was considered to be demolition so the builder changed his plans so that the bylaw wouldn’t apply. Action: need to clarify in bylaw what falls under ‘proposed demolition’ term.
      13. Rhinecliff: no tree removals, need to get protections up
      14. Winter Street: behind on Tree Plan
      15. 2 Moccasin: trees were removed after 1 contractor took over for another contractor; no Tree Plan submitted; there will be fines
      16. Steve Moore mentioned tree removal on a property in Arlmont near Rt2/Dow (Tim will investigate)
  - Tree hearing(s) - none

- Tree Watering/Intern work – interns are finishing up now to go back to school. DPW is considering hiring new intern(s) for Aug – Oct
- Tree health / mgmt news
  - i. New Tree Department member hired. Yet, one Tree Department moved to Hwy Dept. (goal is to have 6: 2 crews running)
  - ii. Marquis Tree Service renewed contract with the town for next 3 years. Will help with tree work during storms, pruning, and large crane work. Will start the end of the month.

3. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*

- ATC will reach out to Planning Dept to see how we can make preserving trees and planting trees a priority in all town planning (private as well as public land). Every master planning doc and climate report has expressed the need for more trees; better to take a more collaborative approach than just the tree committee and tree dept. Eliza will reach out to planning department
- Arlington Housing Authority Menotomy Manor. Keith and JoAnn identified 7 – 12 tree planting sites. Considering ordering from New England Nurseries (potted trees) or piggyback on Tim's town order for bareroot trees. JZ Landscape could plant again. Menotomy Manor could fit 10+ more trees.
- Wicked Hot Mystic and "I see change" app (carried from July agenda): allows people to post pictures of places which could benefit from temperature-reducing measures.
- Heat zone targeted planting – apartment building manager outreach (Steve). Consider religious properties, businesses, etc
- Planting on private ways – (Susan) – not addressed
- Back of sidewalk – not discussed. Right now we only have Community Canopy program available for subsidized trees.
- Tim and Mike are in support of ATC having an "allowance" from the Trees Please fund for expanding community canopy program for properties meeting the criteria for priority tree planting. The tree recipients would be responsible for planting and maintaining. They'd like ATC to follow up with town counsel.

4. *Report on Bylaw review for 2022 (Susan) –*

- Research on nearby towns are starting re: tree-related laws

5. *Adopt-a-Tree Program (2021 program) (MEA/EB)*

- i. *Update – watering reminders are coming out via the system.*
- ii. *Expansion/Outreach – get the word out to get additional adopters registered and to water as the late season approaches which is typically the driest/hottest of the season.*

6. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- DCR Community Forester webinar (Sept 30) planning/prep (Tim, ATC volunteer)
  - i. 50 minute presentation. Due to turnover at DCR, Tim does not have info on content yet. Will update us ASAP
- Website editing (Steve/Mary Ellen)
  - i. Mary Ellen trained Steve; he will be adding pictures of 'big trees'
- Outreach/liaisons to town orgs (ARB, ZBA, Park and Rec, Open Space, School Comm, Conservation Commission)
  - i. ZBA: 1065r: public part of meeting complete
  - ii. Thorndike Place (40b) – new information delivered to town and stakeholders need to review before comment.
  - iii. HighRock property Mill street – tree removal and replacement (Mara Vatz attended – not in attendance). This is not an Art. 16 Tree Bylaw project but Conservation Commission is requiring replacement of the 6? Trees slated for

removal on slope behind the building to improve drainage. Due to slope, small native trees and shrubs are being proposed.

- Broader inclusion / equity of ATC materials, programs, and members/ translations
  - i. Construction guidelines translated – not discussed
  - ii. Adopt-a-tree translated – not discussed

#### 7. *New Business*

- Notes from June 30 Urban Forestry Tree Summit (Eliza) – main takeaway was that natural regeneration (as opposed to intentionally planted) accounts for ~ 65% of tree canopy in towns. How do we encourage this in Arlington? How do we let nature help us expand our tree canopy?
- Mention of Article 38 and how this should be considered in Bylaw edits. Link: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/11175/>
- Lynette Culverhouse = commented that IPCC new report on the state of the planet leaves a feeling of urgency. Individuals need to take responsibility, and get engaged to prevent further emissions and increase tree planting/preserving. Let's consider some way to raise awareness (Lynette has offered to help). Perhaps design a program with ACMI help
- Eric Helmuth is now the ATC's new Selectboard liaison following Dan Dunn's departure
- Staff changes: Adam Kurowski (GIS) and Emily Sullivan (Conservation Commission agent) are leaving Arlington

**Next meeting:** Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Adjourned 9:36pm